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EXAMINER

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Notification of Non-Compliant Appeal Brief
(37 CFR 41.37)**

Application No.

09/267,150

Applicant(s)

JAMES, DAVID V

Examiner

Christopher Onuaku

Art Unit

2616

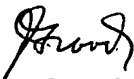
--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

The Appeal Brief filed on 15 August 2005 is defective for failure to comply with one or more provisions of 37 CFR 41.37.

To avoid dismissal of the appeal, applicant must file an amended brief or other appropriate correction (see MPEP 1205.03) within **ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS** from the mailing date of this Notification, whichever is longer.

EXTENSIONS OF THIS TIME PERIOD MAY BE GRANTED UNDER 37 CFR 1.136.

1. ☒ The brief does not contain the items required under 37 CFR 41.37(c), or the items are not under the proper heading or in the proper order.
2. ☐ The brief does not contain a statement of the status of all claims, (e.g., rejected, allowed, withdrawn, objected to, canceled), or does not identify the appealed claims (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(iii)).
3. ☐ At least one amendment has been filed subsequent to the final rejection, and the brief does not contain a statement of the status of each such amendment (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(iv)).
4. ☒ (a) The brief does not contain a concise explanation of the subject matter defined in each of the independent claims involved in the appeal, referring to the specification by page and line number and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters; and/or (b) the brief fails to: (1) identify, for each independent claim involved in the appeal and for each dependent claim argued separately, every means plus function and step plus function under 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph, and/or (2) set forth the structure, material, or acts described in the specification as corresponding to each claimed function with reference to the specification by page and line number, and to the drawings, if any, by reference characters (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(v)).
5. ☐ The brief does not contain a concise statement of each ground of rejection presented for review (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(vi)).
6. ☐ The brief does not present an argument under a separate heading for each ground of rejection on appeal (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(vii)).
7. ☐ The brief does not contain a correct copy of the appealed claims as an appendix thereto (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(viii)).
8. ☐ The brief does not contain copies of the evidence submitted under 37 CFR 1.130, 1.131, or 1.132 or of any other evidence entered by the examiner and **relied upon by appellant in the appeal**, along with a statement setting forth where in the record that evidence was entered by the examiner, as an appendix thereto (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(ix)).
9. ☐ The brief does not contain copies of the decisions rendered by a court or the Board in the proceeding identified in the Related Appeals and Interferences section of the brief as an appendix thereto (37 CFR 41.37(c)(1)(x)).
10. ☐ Other (including any explanation in support of the above items):


James J. Groody
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Art Unit 262 2616



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant: James, D. Patent Application
Application No.: 09/267,150 Art Unit: 2616
Filing Date: March 11, 1999 Examiner: Onuaku, C.
For: AV/C COMMANDS FOR ACCESSING A HARD DISK DEVICE

APPEAL BRIEF

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08/17/2005 HGUTEMAI 00000025 09267150
01 FC:1402 500.00 OP

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1. Real Party in Interest

The assignees of the present invention are Sony Corporation of Japan and Sony Electronics, Inc.

2. Related Appeals and Interferences

There are no related appeals or interferences known to the Appellant.

3. Status of Claims

Claims 1-15 and 17-32 have been rejected. This appeal involves Claims 1-15 and 17-32.

4. Status of Amendments

An amendment has not been filed subsequent to the final rejection.

5. Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Unless otherwise noted, reference is to Figure 3B of the instant application. Independent Claim 15 pertains to a mass storage unit (e.g., a hard disk device [HDD] 60) that includes a medium (e.g., storage unit 50) for storing data representing audio and visual content. The storage unit 50 can include a number of "platters" (e.g., platter 6 of Figure 1) and a corresponding number of heads (e.g., head 8 of Figure 1) positioned adjacent to the platters. Each head is used to read and write data to and from a respective platter. A microcontroller 120 controls movement of the heads.

With reference now to Figure 4 of the instant application, the microcontroller associates an object (e.g., object 414) with the data, derives a

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unique object identifier for the object, assigns the unique object identifier to the object, and accesses the object using the unique object identifier. The unique object identifier is unique to the mass storage unit 50 (Figure 3B) and across all mass storage units. As recited in Claim 17 dependent on Claim 15, this is achieved by including in the unique object identifier a unique (one of its kind) identification number 402 that is assigned only to the mass storage unit 50.

The object is maintained in a hierarchical organization 400 with other objects. The hierarchical organization includes an object list 412 containing the unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for other objects, where the other unique object identifiers are also unique across all mass storage units.

The present claimed invention is different from conventional approaches in which, for example, a file containing data is copied and both the data and the name of the file are duplicated. The present claimed invention is also different from approaches in which, after the data is copied, a user changes the name of the file, because in such approaches the new file name is not necessarily unique across all mass storage units, as claimed.

Independent Claim 27 also pertains to a mass storage unit (e.g., HDD 60), but recites a storage means, a data transfer means, and a microcontroller means that perform the functions described above. Claim 27 also recites a unique object identifier that is unique to the mass storage unit and across all mass storage units.

Independent Claim 1 pertains to a method for organizing and accessing stored data. According to the claimed method, an object 414 is associated with the stored data. A unique object identifier 402 is derived for the object. The unique object identifier is assigned to the object, where the unique object identifier is unique to the mass storage device and also unique to all mass storage devices. The object is maintained in a hierarchical organization 400 with other objects, where the hierarchical organization includes an object list 412. The object list contains the unique object identifier 402 and other unique object identifiers for the other objects. The objects are accessed using their respective unique object identifiers.

6. Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,875,446; hereinafter, "Brown") in view of Yuen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,488,409; hereinafter, "Yuen").

Claims 10-13, 15, 17-27 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Yuen and further in view of Taira (U.S. Patent No. 6,415,098).

Claims 3 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Yuen and further in view of Hoover et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,575; hereinafter, "Hoover").

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown in view of Yuen and Taira and further in view of Hoover.

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7. Arguments

A. Claims 1-2 and 4-9

The following arguments are applicable to Claims 1-2 and 4-9, which are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown and Yuen.

Independent Claim 1 recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to a method for organizing and accessing stored data representing audio and visual data in a mass storage device, wherein an object associated with stored data is assigned a unique object identifier, "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage device and also unique to all mass storage devices." Page 4 of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005, acknowledges that Brown does not disclose this claim limitation. Yuen is relied on to overcome this shortcoming.

"Unique," as commonly used, refers to "being the only one of its kind," for example. The instant specification, beginning at line 20 on page 18 and continuing through line 19 on page 19, states in part that, in one embodiment, "each object identifier on HDD unit 60 is unique not just for that HDD unit but it is also unique for all units" (emphasis added).

Appellant respectfully submits that Yuen does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown. Specifically, Appellant understands Yuen to describe an addressing system that uses a "VISS PLUS TP data packet address system." VISS (video index search system) is a conventional mechanism for inserting a marker at a user-selected point in a recorded video tape, but provides no

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mechanism for uniquely identifying an object. A TP data packet, as described by Yuen, comprises a TID (tape identifier) and a program number (column 16, lines 19-22, of Yuen). Significantly, according to Yuen, the TP data packet is provided in the VBI (vertical blanking interval) that is part of a broadcast video signal (column 7, lines 25-26, of Yuen). Thus, Appellant respectfully asserts that there is nothing unique about a TP data packet. Each unit receiving the broadcast signal will receive the same TP data packet. Hence, each unit receiving the broadcast signal will assign the same identifier to all video tapes that record that broadcast signal. Indeed, Appellant understands this to be a key aspect of Yuen because an object of Yuen is to monitor the selection habits of viewers of video tapes; as such, a naming convention uniform across video tapes would be preferred by Yuen.

To illustrate this point further, consider an example in which two video cassette recorders (VCRs) are operated at the same time. According to Yuen, each VCR receives a TP data packet. As described by Yuen, the TP data packet is provided in the vertical blanking interval (VBI) that is part of a broadcast signal. As a broadcast signal, the TP data packet would be received by each of the VCRs. Thus, each VCR receives the same TP data packet. The TP data packet received by each VCR includes a TID (tape identifier) and a program number. Thus, each VCR receives the same TID and program number. As such, there is nothing unique about the TID or the program number. Two tapes can have the same TID.

Continuing with this example, according to Yuen, the VCRs can be made to act on the tape recorded by each VCR; specifically, a user can insert a marker

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at a user-selected point in the recorded tape. Whether by coincidence or on purpose, a user can mark the same point in each tape recorded by the two VCRs. As such, there is nothing unique about such a marker, even in combination with the TID and/or program number.

The Advisory Action mailed May 6, 2005, includes an argument that "It is quite obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art that to give the same tape identification number to two different tape types would be very inefficient ...". Tacit in this statement is an admission that Yuen does not explicitly disclose that which it is relied upon as teaching. Furthermore, as just described above, Appellant believes that it is an object of Yuen to monitor the selection habits of viewers of video tapes, and so it would not be inefficient and indeed would appear to be beneficial (from Yuen's perspective) to give the same TID to two tapes. Appellant respectfully submits that it is well established that there is no suggestion or motivation to make a proposed modification to a prior art invention if the proposed modification renders that invention unsatisfactory for its intended purpose. Thus, Appellant respectfully submits that there is no suggestion or motivation to modify Yuen in the manner proposed in the aforementioned Advisory Action.

To summarize, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown and Yuen (alone or in combination) do not show or suggest an object identifier that is unique across storage units. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown and Yuen, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest a method for organizing and accessing stored data representing audio and visual data in a mass storage device, wherein an object associated with stored data is assigned a

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unique object identifier and "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage device and also unique to all mass storage devices" as recited in independent Claim 1.

Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed and that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. As such, Appellant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 2 and 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is also traversed as these claims are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations.

B. Claims 10-13

The following arguments are applicable to Claims 10-13, which are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Yuen and Taira.

Claims 10-13 are dependent on independent Claim 1. Accordingly, by showing that Claim 1 is not shown or suggested by Brown, Yuen and Taira (alone or in combination), it can be demonstrated that Claims 10-13 are also not shown or suggested by Brown, Yuen and Taira (alone or in combination).

As presented above (please refer to Section 7.A of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Brown and Yuen do not show or suggest the present invention as recited by Claim 1. Appellant further submits that Taira does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown and Yuen.

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Appellant understands Taira to describe the storing of title screen data, for example, in a file that is assigned a certain name. Other such files are also used to store other types of data and are assigned names based on the type of data being stored. That is, Appellant understands Taira to only describe naming files based on the content of the files. Appellant respectfully submits that the file names described by Taira are not unique as recited in independent Claim 1, and in particular are not unique across all mass storage devices as recited in independent Claim 1.

Thus, Appellant respectfully submits that Taira, alone or in combination with Brown and Yuen, does not show or suggest the limitations of Claim 1 cited above. Specifically, Appellant respectfully submits that Taira, alone or in combination with Brown and Yuen, does not show or suggest a method for organizing and accessing stored data representing audio and visual data in a mass storage device, wherein an object associated with stored data is assigned a unique object identifier and "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage device and also unique to all mass storage devices" as recited in independent Claim 1.

In summary, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Taira, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claim 1 and that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. As such, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Taira, alone or in combination, also do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by Claims 10-13, as Claims 10-13 are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations. Therefore, Appellant

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respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 10-13 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

C. Claims 15, 17-27 and 29-32

The following arguments are applicable to Claims 15, 17-27 and 29-32, which are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Yuen and Taira.

Independent Claim 15 recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to a mass storage unit comprising a microcontroller used for assigning a unique object identifier to an object associated with data, "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units." Independent Claim 27 recites that an embodiment of the present invention is directed to a mass storage unit comprising a microcontroller means used for assigning a unique object identifier to an object associated with data, "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units."

Page 4 of the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005, acknowledges that Brown does not disclose the limitations of independent Claims 15 and 27 cited above. Applying the same rationale presented above (please see Section 7.A of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Yuen does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown. Specifically, Appellant respectfully submits that Yuen, alone or in combination with Brown, does not show or suggest "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units" as recited in Claim 15, nor does Yuen, alone or in combination

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with Brown, show or suggest "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units" as recited in Claim 27.

Furthermore, Appellant respectfully submits that Taira does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown and Yuen. Applying the same rationale as presented above (please see Section 7.B of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Taira, alone or in combination with Brown and Yuen, does not show or suggest "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units" as recited in Claim 15, nor does Taira, alone or in combination with Brown and Yuen, show or suggest "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units" as recited in Claim 27.

Thus, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Taira, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claims 15 and 27 and that these claims are in condition for allowance. As such, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Taira, alone or in combination, also do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by Claims 17-26 dependent on Claim 15 and Claims 29-32 dependent on Claim 27, as Claims 17-26 and 29-32 are dependent on allowable base claims and recite additional limitations. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 15, 17-27 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

D. Claims 3 and 14

The following arguments are applicable to Claims 3 and 14, which are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Yuen and Hoover.

Claims 3 and 14 are dependent on independent Claim 1. Accordingly, by showing that Claim 1 is not shown or suggested by Brown, Yuen and Hoover (alone or in combination), it can be demonstrated that Claims 3 and 14 are also not shown or suggested by Brown, Yuen and Hoover (alone or in combination).

As presented above (please see Section 7.A of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Brown and Yuen, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by Claim 1. Appellant respectfully submits that Hoover does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown and Yuen.

Appellant understands Hoover to describe object identifiers that persist over time. However, Appellant respectfully submits that Hoover, alone or in combination with Brown and Yuen, does not show or suggest "wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage device and also unique to all mass storage devices" as recited in independent Claim 1. Although Hoover recites "a unique identifier," there is no showing or suggestion in Hoover that the object identifier of Hoover is truly unique as recited by Claim 1.

In summary, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Hoover, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed

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invention as recited by independent Claim 1, and that Claim 1 is in condition for allowance. As such, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Hoover, alone or in combination, also do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by Claims 3 and 14 dependent on Claim 1, as Claims 3 and 14 are dependent on an allowable base claim and recite additional limitations. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claims 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

E. Claim 3

The following arguments are applicable to Claim 3, which is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Yuen and Hoover.

The Office Action mailed January 13, 2005, acknowledges that Brown and Yuen does not disclose the limitations of Claim 3. Appellant respectfully submits that Hoover does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown and Yuen.

Specifically, Appellant respectfully submits that Hoover, alone or in combination with Brown and Yuen, does not show or suggest "including in said unique object identifier a date and time corresponding to when said unique object identifier is derived" as recited in Claim 3 (emphasis added). Figure 7 of Hoover very clearly shows the object identifier of Hoover as being an entity that is separate and distinct from the status information (e.g., the date), whereas the present claimed invention recites that the date and time are included in the object identifier. Appellant respectfully submits that updating a table that contains an object identifier and a date as separate entities cannot be read as including a date and time in an object identifier, as recited by Claim 3.

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Therefore, Appellant respectfully disagrees with the interpretation of Hoover that is presented in the Office Action mailed January 13, 2005.

In summary, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Hoover, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by Claim 3. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

F. Claim 28

The following arguments are applicable to Claim 28, which is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown, Yuen, Taira and Hoover.

Claim 28 is dependent on independent Claim 27. Accordingly, by showing that Claim 27 is not shown or suggested by Brown, Yuen, Taira and Hoover (alone or in combination), it can be demonstrated that Claim 28 is also not shown or suggested by Brown, Yuen, Taira and Hoover (alone or in combination).

As presented above (please see Section 7.C of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen and Taira, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claim 27. As presented above (please see Section 7.D of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Hoover does not overcome the shortcomings of Brown, Yuen and Taira. Hoover, alone or in combination with Brown, Yuen and Taira, also does not show or suggest a unique object identifier that is unique across all

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mass storage units. Accordingly, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen, Taira and Hoover, alone or in combination, do not show or suggest the present claimed invention as recited by independent Claim 27 and that Claim 27 is in condition for allowance.

Moreover, as presented above (please see Section 7.E of this paper), Appellant respectfully submits that Hoover cannot be relied upon as teaching “wherein said unique object identifier includes a date and time corresponding to when said unique object identifier is derived and a unique identification number, said unique identification number assigned only to said mass storage unit such that said unique object identifier is unique across all mass storage units” as recited in Claim 28.

Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that Brown, Yuen, Taira and Hoover (alone or in combination) do not show or suggest the additional claimed features of the present invention as recited in Claim 28 and that Claim 28 is in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Therefore, Appellant respectfully submits that the basis for rejecting Claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) is traversed.

8. Conclusions

Appellant believes that Claims 1-2 and 4-9 are patentable over Brown and Yuen. Also, Appellant believes that Claims 10-13, 15, 17-27 and 29-32 are patentable over Brown, Yuen and Taira. Furthermore, Appellant believes that Claims 3 and 14 are patentable over Brown, Yuen and Hoover. Moreover, Appellant believes that Claim 28 is patentable over Brown, Yuen, Taira and

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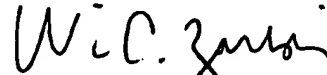
Hoover. As such, Appellant believes that pending Claims 1-15 and 17-32 are patentable over the cited prior art references.

Appellant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-15 and 17-32 be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

WAGNER, MURABITO & HAO LLP

Dated: 8/10, 2005



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Appendix - Clean Copy of Claims on Appeal

1. (Previously Presented) In a mass storage device, a method for organizing and accessing stored data representing audio and visual data, said method comprising:

- a) associating an object with said stored data;
- b) deriving a unique object identifier for said object and assigning said unique object identifier to said object, wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage device and also unique to all mass storage devices;
- c) maintaining said object in a hierarchical organization with other objects, wherein said hierarchical organization comprises an object list, said object list containing said unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for said other objects; and
- d) accessing said object using said unique object identifier.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein step b) comprises using an embedded system of said mass storage device to derive and assign said unique object identifier.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein step b) comprises including in said unique object identifier a date and time corresponding to when said unique object identifier is derived such that said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage device.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein step b) further comprises including in said unique object identifier a unique identification number, said unique identification number assigned only to said

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mass storage unit such that said unique object identifier is the only one of its kind.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein step c) further comprises creating a table of contents containing a list of objects associated with data stored on said mass storage device.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein step c) further comprises associating a first object to a second object using a unique object identifier for said second object.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6 wherein step d) comprises:

locating said first object using a unique object identifier for said first object; and

locating said second object using said unique object identifier for said second object.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein step d) comprises locating said object using descriptive data, wherein said object contains said descriptive data for describing said stored data.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising accessing said object and executing a command using said object.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said command specifies that said stored data associated with said object are to be recorded.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said command specifies that said stored data associated with said object are to be played.

12. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said command is for reading from said stored data associated with said object.

13. (Original) The method of Claim 9 wherein said command is for writing to said stored data associated with said object.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said mass storage device is a magnetic disk device.

15. (Previously Presented) A mass storage unit comprising:
medium for storing data representing audio and visual content;
a head positioned adjacent to a surface of said medium such that said data are read to and written from said surface using said head; and
a microcontroller for controlling movement of said head;
wherein said microcontroller is for associating an object with said data, deriving a unique object identifier for said object, assigning said unique object identifier to said object and for accessing said object using said unique object identifier, wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units;

wherein said microcontroller is also for maintaining said object in a

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hierarchical organization with other objects, said hierarchical organization including an object list containing said unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for said other objects, said other unique object identifiers also unique across all mass storage units.

16. (Canceled).

17. (Previously Presented) The mass storage unit of Claim 15 wherein said unique object identifier includes a unique identification number, said unique identification number assigned only to said mass storage unit such that said unique object identifier is unique across all mass storage units.

18. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 15 wherein said microcontroller is also for creating a table of contents containing a list of objects associated with data stored on said mass storage unit.

19. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 15 wherein said hierarchical organization further comprises a first object that is associated with a second object using a unique object identifier for said second object.

20. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 19 wherein said first object is located using a unique object identifier for said first object and said second object is located using said unique object identifier for said second object.

21. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 15 wherein said object contains descriptive data for describing said data, wherein said object is located using said descriptive data.

22. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 15 wherein said microcontroller is also for accessing said object and executing a command using said object.

23. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 22 wherein said command specifies that said stored data associated with said object are to be recorded.

24. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 22 wherein said command specifies that said stored data associated with said object are to be played.

25. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 22 wherein said command is for reading from said stored data associated with said object.

26. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 22 wherein said command is for writing to said stored data associated with said object.

27. (Previously Presented) A mass storage unit comprising:
a storage means for storing data;
a data transfer means positioned adjacent to said storage means for reading and writing said data from and to said storage means; and

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a microcontroller means for controlling movement of said data transfer means;

wherein said microcontroller means is for associating an object with said data, deriving a unique object identifier for said object, assigning said unique object identifier to said object, and accessing said object using said unique object identifier, wherein said unique object identifier is unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units;

wherein said microcontroller means is also for maintaining said object in a hierarchical organization with other objects, said hierarchical organization including an object list containing said unique object identifier and other unique object identifiers for said other objects, said other unique object identifiers also unique to said mass storage unit and across all mass storage units.

28. (Previously Presented) The mass storage unit of Claim 27 wherein said unique object identifier includes a date and time corresponding to when said unique object identifier is derived and a unique identification number, said unique identification number assigned only to said mass storage unit such that said unique object identifier is unique across all mass storage units.

29. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 27 wherein said microcontroller means is also for creating a table of contents containing a list of objects associated with data stored on said mass storage unit.

30. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 27 wherein said hierarchical organization further comprises a first object that is associated with a second object using a unique object identifier for said second object.

31. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 27 wherein said object contains descriptive data for describing said data.

32. (Original) The mass storage unit of Claim 27 wherein said microcontroller means is also for accessing said object and executing a command using said object.